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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/539,606	07/14/2006	Thomas Vinnemann	095309.56351US	6619

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WASHINGTON, DC 20044-4300

EXAMINER
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PARK, ILWOO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2182

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/22/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/539,606

Applicant(s)

VINNEMANN, THOMAS

Examiner

Ilwoo Park

Art Unit

2182

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 26-28 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15 and 29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 16-25 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/17/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 15-29 are presented for examination.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 15 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Whitehouse et al. [US 5,872,934].

As to claim 15, Whitehouse et al teach a method for automatically allocating addresses among control devices connected to a data bus system [fig. 1], in which the control devices interchange data, using respective transmission/reception units [e.g., bidirectional drivers 210<sub>1</sub>, 210<sub>2</sub>, ..., 210<sub>N</sub> in fig. 1] via a common data bus line [RS-485 serial data bus], and simultaneously access data sent using the common data bus line, said method comprising:

starting an address allocation period by transmitting [col. 4, lines 23-27] a message on the common data bus line to a plurality of control devices that are to be addressed;

in response to the message, during the address allocation period, electronically breaking [col. 4, lines 28-33] the common data bus line into individual subsections, by each of the control devices which are to be addressed using a respective isolating means [e.g., DPDT relay] for electronically breaking the common data bus line; and

each of the control devices which are to be addressed placing its respective transmission/reception unit at a transmission potential [inherently 'high' by the termination network  $Z_T$  to render the bus operable in RS-485 bus].

4. As to claim 29, Whitehouse et al teach a method for assignment of addresses to a plurality of control units that are connected by a common data bus line [RS-485 serial data bus], said method comprising:

one of said control units, acting as a master unit [SCU 100 in fig. 1], transmitting a message [col. 4, lines 23-27] to remaining control units, acting as a slave unit [SVDU 200<sub>1</sub>, 200<sub>2</sub>, ..., 200<sub>N</sub> in fig. 1], via said data bus line, thereby initiating an address allocation period;

in response to the message, during the address allocation period, each of said slave units opening [col. 4, lines 28-33] a switch to break said data bus line within said slave unit, and causing a dominant signal [inherently 'high' by the termination network  $Z_T$  to render the bus operable in RS-485 bus] to be present at its input, which is connected to an output of a preceding slave unit;

each slave unit detecting [receiving mode inherently 'high' and waiting for "status request" from the SCU in col. 4, lines 34-41] whether a dominant signal is present at its output; and

only a slave unit which does not detect a dominant signal at its output accepting [col. 4, lines 42-49] an address transmitted from the master unit at a preset time [inherent to steps 114, 116, 200 in fig. 2]

***Allowable Subject Matter***

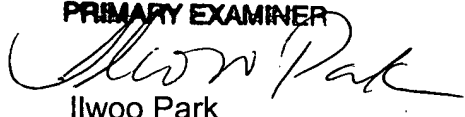
5. Claims 26-28 are allowed.
6. Claims 16-25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ilwoo Park whose telephone number is (571) 272-4155. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Huynh can be reached on (571) 272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**ILWOO PARK  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**



Ilwoo Park

March 13, 2007